the Group recommended *inter alia* that in spite of the present scenario of economic liberalization and WTO agreements, the policy of reservation should continue and that the position could be reviewed periodically to take stock of the changing economic scenario. Accordingly, Government has been reviewing the list of items reserved for exclusive manufacture for SSI from time to time after consultation with all the stake holders.

**Competition of SSI with foreign countries**

†1250. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Small Scale Industries of our country are not able to compete with the Small Scale Industries of other countries like China, Japan, etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) While comparative figures of exports by Indian small scale industries to individual countries, including China and Japan, and those of exports by small scale industries in those countries to India are not available, the export data of India show that the exports of Indian small scale industries have, on the whole, grown by about 179 per cent during 1998-99 to 2002-03.

(c) The Government has taken several measures to help small enterprises, including small scale industries, to become globally competitive. These include schemes/programmes for technology upgradation, development of clusters of such industries, making bank credit of upto Rs. 5 lakh available without collateral, 75 per cent credit guarantee for loans upto to Rs. 25 lakh, creating awareness among these industries regarding export-related issues and sensitizing them to the emerging challenges of trade liberalization, reimbursement of the cost of obtaining ISO 9000/14001 certification upto Rs. 75,000/- reimbursement of registration fee upto Rs. 15,000/- for adopting bar coding of products, etc. The Government has also in place appropriate trade-defence mechanisms, such as import licensing, safeguards against surge in imports and anti-dumping measures to provide protection to domestic industries, including small scale industries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.